

Prairie Restoration



Stacy DeCoster
8th Grade Science
Grinnell Middle School
Marshall County Conservation Board

Part I: Overview of Business

The Marshall County Conservation Board’s land include more than 2,052 acres at 28 different sites across the county. Iowa’s County Conservation Board System was established in 1955 and Marshall County’s in 1958. The Board’s goal is to identify unique areas within Marshall County and protect them by offering technical assistance to landowners or by acquisition.

Part III: Introduce the Problem

This project includes identifying native prairie grasses and flowers that restore habitat for local wildlife. The student has to take into account: size of the area, diversity of plant species, and target wildlife species for that area to increase biodiversity.

Part V: Business Solution

- Increased biodiversity of prairie plant species leads to an increase in the biodiversity of the ecosystem.

Part II: Job Specifics

MCCB acquires specific areas within Marshall County and reverts land to original native prairie, forest, wetland, or open space. The county conservation wants to provide quality outdoor experiences which have minimal disturbance to the surrounding ecosystems.

Part IV: Background

Students will need to know the following information related to the standard MS-LS2-5.

- What caused the loss of biodiversity in prairie plant species initially.
- How that loss affected animal biodiversity locally and across Iowa.
- The benefits of prairies in Iowa and what they do for society.
- How did types of prairie plants affect biodiversity.

Part VI: Student Solutions

- Students will research what the local prairie should consist of and design a solution that leads to an increase of pollinators, insects, small mammals, and birds.